

GREEN PARTY STANDS WITH STUDENTS!

GREEN FOCUS: THE NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA Spring 2011

The Green Party of California agrees!

“Tired of budget cuts and student fees? Pissed about the fact that you’ll have to stay 13 years just to get into all of your required courses? Sick of the UC executive pay increases and staff layoffs? Are you angry about the past political repression of students and workers in the UC system? Recent events in Puerto Rico, Wisconsin, Egypt, Tunisia, etc. show us that students and workers are fighting against Austerity and Political Repression.”

*Organizers for the March 2nd student actions.
<http://mobilizeberkeley.com/>*

AN OPEN LETTER TO CALIFORNIA STUDENTS

My name is Barry Hermanson, and I am co-chair, California Green Party Coordinating Committee.

I agree with what is written above, and support today’s students in their struggles.

When I graduated from California State University Los Angeles in 1972, the cost of my tuition at that time was less than the cost of my books because the CSU system was initially established to provide free public college education to California students.

I was a Democrat until the age of 50. I am an advocate for economic justice and for peace (NotMyPriorities.org).

Did you know that approximately 60 percent of the U.S. discretionary budget is spent

on military? We spend as much as the rest of the world combined. Democrats and Republicans in Washington, D.C. overwhelmingly support military spending at the expense of programs that serve our communities.

A small slice of our current military spending would pay for a lot of college educations.

For the past 10 years, I have been a Green. While I agree with and have supported progressive Democrats over the years, it is with fellow Greens that I feel the most comfortable politically.

I hope you will check us out. Registering as a Green is a political statement. Please join us.



Green Party of California
www.cagreens.org

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Contact:**

Dems-GOP Don't Get It

Independent Greens offer option at polls

(Author Laura Wells was the Green Party of California's 2010 nominee for Governor)

Students are on the march, on March 4 of 2010 and March 2 this year, Students from K-12, community colleges, and universities are doing walk-outs, teach-ins...and taking to the streets.

They have good reason to step out of line: Tuition at the California universities increased 32 percent in 2009, and jumped yet again in 2010.

Budget allocations for K-12 are being saved from cuts this year, but this divide and conquer strategy among the different educational levels is wearing thin.

Teachers and students are seeing a pattern of being spared

one year and then getting cut the next year.

There is a growing sense of possibility in organizers as they are seeing how great numbers of people - many of them young - took to the streets and took down a Egyptian dictator.

Make a statement about your independence and your values by registering Green. And vote.

They are also inspired by people in Wisconsin, and are ready to confront governors who are cutting education budgets across the country.

The solution of "Tax The Rich" is beginning to show up in the student slogans on signs

and fliers, side by side with the demand to "Stop the Cuts."

Students are seeing through the warning that "there are no alternatives," whether that warning comes from a Republican or Democratic Governor. They see the wars and the

prison budgets being protected, while their opportunities for a better education are cut. They recognize that the Brown budget in California is a "Tax The Poor" scheme.

When students and all young people use their power,

they will change this system.

Power includes taking to the streets and voting. Looking at voter turnout statistics in recent Wisconsin elections back up the statement that progressives protest, and Republicans vote. Let's do both.

The events at Wisconsin inspired my latest tweet, "Wisconsin and the rest of us: yes, take to the streets, and yes, VOTE."

There are two corporate controlled political parties that I call the Titanic Parties, and every young person who hears me say it understands right away.

And there is an international party that is independent of corporate funding and corporate control: the Green Party.

VOTE GREEN

GREEN PARTY

Don't Let Our Futures Turn to Sh*t!

(Author Sandy Stiassni is an Orange County Green Party organizer)

On March 4, 2010, 150 students attempted to shut down San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, as protest against draconian public education cuts debated in Sacramento.

These brave Californians created one of the most dramatic symbols of bottoms-up rebellion since the 1960s student-led Berkeley Free Speech Movement.

One year later, Golden State's public universities and colleges are again scheduled to fall under Grim Reaper's scythe.

After one week in office, Gov. Jerry Brown asked for \$1.4 billion in new education cuts, which sharply increases tuition, greatly reduces enrollments, and forecloses millions of college-age Californian futures.

On the first anniversary of March 4 student uprisings, I ask every college age Californian to talk to a Green Party member.

Greens will tell you, the Green Party wants to directly represent you on school boards, city councils, county seats, in the State Assembly and Senate.

The Green Party wants to save the planet, not just the bottom line. The Green Party wants to push corporate influence out of politics, build solar panels and schools, not "b**bs" and BS.

In the footsteps of Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Ralph Nader, Green Party wants to non-violently revolutionize society, to create a global community where you can thrive.

The California Green Party invites all students to register Green, and vote Green. Don't let all our futures turn to sh*t!

Education Platform Key to Party Values

The Green Party - in its platform - supports the student struggle in the state's colleges and universities for a halt to outrageous fee and tuition hikes which threaten the very existence of our institutions of higher learning. For more see http://cagreens.org/platform/platform_justice.shtml#public

The Green Party of California platform supports a lifelong public education, with an emphasis on giving students tools to enable them to lead meaningful and productive lives.

Since a good educational system is the most important insurance we have that our country's basic principles of social justice will be preserved, we must allocate sufficient resources to our public school system.

Every child should have equitable access to free and appropriate educational resources and opportunities in a well-maintained public school. Since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, California budget allocations have slighted education.

This is true at the preschool and K-12 grade levels, and in the area of higher education as well. We will never have a quality educational system until we provide adequate funding.

Among others, the Green Party of California advocates:

- * Substantially increase and make more equitable state and federal funding for public education at all levels, from preschool and K-12 to the community college, the California State University, and the University of California systems.

- * Work for free education eventually to be available from preschool through community college, university, graduate and professional schools.